Bringing our vision of the future to life

Exciting news for this the first Friends of Fishborne Roman Palace newsletter. This month sees the start of phase one of the long awaited development at Fishbourne Roman Palace.

Phase one will see the building of the new Collections Discovery Centre which will ultimately house the reserve archaeological collections of both Fishbourne and Chichester District Museum, the Joseph Brooks Research Room, a conservation laboratory and a new education workshop, enabling us to expand our award winning education programme *(see page 3)*.

At the same time, work will begin on the renovation and refurbishment of the north wing cover building protecting the mosaics. The work here will be carried out in three phases, ensuring that at least two thirds of the displays are accessible to the public throughout the life of the project. Starting at the east end, or the furthest point from the entrance to the Palace, work will progress through the building towards the admissions desk and shop area.

David Rudkin said "I have been looking forward to this moment for more than 10 years. It is exciting for everyone involved to see the building work start. The next few months are going to present an interesting challenge, as we remain open to the public throughout the project. The team have drawn up a list of innovative ideas and suggestions for a wide range of additional activities and interactive presentations to both entertain and inform visitors during the times when certain areas of the Palace are not accessible to the public; and who knows, if these prove to be popular they may well become a regular feature in the future"

Once the work is complete on the Collections Discovery Centre a visit to Fishbourne Roman Palace will have a whole new dimension, including a chance to see the conservator at work in the laboratory, a view into what's happening in the environmentally controlled store and a guided visit to the main archaeological store.

But it won't end there. The Museum is the one area desperately in need of re-display which will not be covered by the funds raised so far. With the help of you, our ***Friends***, we need to raise £300,000 over the next 5 years to enable us to complete this final element of the project.

FRIENDS OF

Fishbourne ROMAN PALACE

Issue 1: May 2005

The major works to the north wing are:

- Repair and insulation of the roof
- Installation of double glazing
- Redecoration of interior
- Installation of exterior colonnade
- Improvements to the lighting
- Upgrade and extension of the walkway
- Additional exit to the Roman garden
- Installation of new interactive area
- Extension of the shop area
- Refurbishment of the audio visual room
- Introduction of a new CGI audio-visual programme
- Upgrade of the sales and admissions desk

Invitation

You are invited to join us on

Wednesday 18th May 2005 from 5pm - 7pm

for a

"Ground Breaking" Ceremony and Reception

to mark the commencement of the development

SUSSEX PAST
The Sussex Archaeological Society

Friends go Behind the Scenes

On Thursday 10th March we held our second "Behind the Scenes" exclusive Friends experience. This is your opportunity to meet the team at the Palace and enjoy a personal tour conducted by our director, archaeologist David Rudkin.

You will be given an insight into the history of the Palace, from discovery through excavation to the present day.

Next there is a visit to the archaeological stores, not normally open to the public, with an opportunity to handle a selection of Roman artefacts found at Fishbourne. You will also have the chance to test your own archaeological knowledge by identifying what the artefacts are and what they were used for.

Friend Colin Moffat said "It's been absolutely fantastic, a real privilege. You wouldn't be able to get so close to such lovely objects and spend so much time with David, the director himself"

In response David said "I really enjoy the Friends Behind the Scenes visits. It gives me a chance to talk about my favourite subject and in greater detail than I usually am able to with our visitors."

We also show you one of our education workshop rooms – a classroom with a difference, including a replica Roman kitchen.

Following the visit, Neville Haskins wrote, "Many thanks for the 'Friends' guided tour last Thursday. Mary and I enjoyed it very much. It's always nice to see some of the behind scenes activities which need to go on to provide this kind of display and preserve such important artefacts."

Colin sent an email saying "Many thanks indeed for a truly wonderful day yesterday at the Palace. I just loved the Quiz. As a layman, I've never been so close to real Roman objects.

Many thanks for a memorable day. We will be back !!"

The two hour "experience" is complimentary for all Friends, but you are most welcome to bring a guest(s).

Tickets cost £10 for adults and £5 for children, including entry to the Palace.

The Palace and the Café are open from 10am until 5pm, giving you plenty of time to combine your "Behind the Scenes" experience with a visit to the Palace and its treasures.

Further dates for "Behind the Scenes" in 2005 are:

Friday June 3rd
Sunday July 3rd
Monday August 1st (Open until 6pm)
Thursday 1st September
Saturday 1st October

The "Behind the Scenes" experience starts at 11.00am

Please call the Palace on 01243 785859 or email projectfish@sussexpast.co.uk to take up this exclusive opportunity.

We look forward to welcoming you "Behind the Scenes" soon.

Family Fun Day at Fontwell Park Racecourse - Sunday 29th May 2005

A family fun day at the races with the added attraction of a Roman theme. Enjoy six thrilling races plus a display of Roman military equipment and horsemanship at beautiful Fontwell Park Racecourse.

There will be lots of Roman activities to participate in from pottery making, to Roman games, the chance to taste Roman food or learn to write your name in Latin. Chance your luck in the Raceday Prize Draw or Tournament Tombola. Tickets to the races are only £10 each when booked in advance from Fishbourne Roman Palace, including a donation to the Appeal. Under 16s go FREE.

To make your day at the races even more special why not take advantage of one of our unique packages:

Centurion's Day at the Races
- £35 per person
- Premier Enclosure Badge
- Raceday Programme
- Welcome Drink
- Tour of the Course
- Tote Betting Voucher
- Traditional Afternoon Tea

Tribune's Day at the Races
- £65 per person
- Premier Enclosure Badge
- Raceday Programme
- Carvery Buffet Lunch
- Tea & Coffee

Private boxes and race sponsorship are also available.

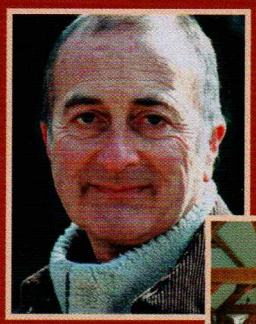
For tickets and bookings please contact Tracey Richardson at Fishbourne Tel: – 01243 785859

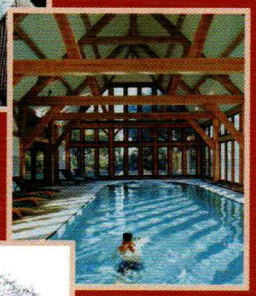
Phil Harding of Channel 4's "Time Team" presenting prizes at Fontwell Park Race Day 2004

Family Fun Day at Fontwell Park Racecourse - Prize Draw

The prize draw is a fantastic way to raise funds for our Appeal and even if you can't come to the races you could still win a fabulous prize! Tickets are just £1 each.

Needless to say the more tickets we sell the more money we raise!





Prizes include:

Bed and Breakfast at Bailiffscourt Hotel and Heath Spa

Quality Photocopier/Computer Printer from Cartridge World Chichester

Mixed Case of Bottled Beers from Harvey's the Sussex Brewers

A "Me to You" Teddy Bear from Carte Blanche Greetings Limited

A signed copy of "Archaeology is Rubbish" from Tony Robinson of Channel 4's Time Team

and many more !

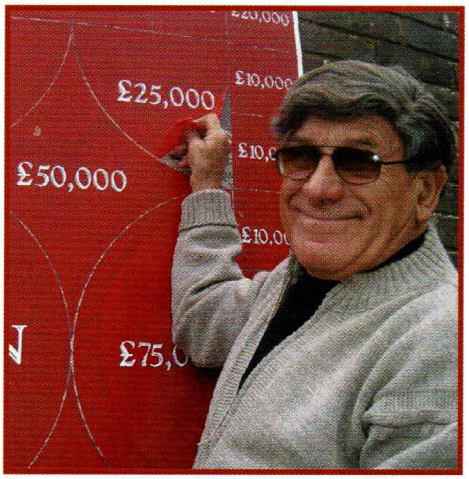
As ***Friends*** we would ask you to help us with this by buying or selling to your friends and family the enclosed book of 5 tickets. If you would like more please let us know by Thursday 19th May 2005, just call 01243 785859. Please send unsold tickets, counterfoils and a cheque for total number of tickets sold to the Palace to arrive no later than Thursday 26th May 2005.

Please make cheques payable to:
Sussex Archaeological Society
and mark envelope: Raceday Prize Draw.

Thank you and happy fundraising!

Friend of Fishbourne Roman Palace donates £25,000 to Mosaic Appeal

Fishbourne Roman Palace has received its largest personal donation to the Million Pound Mosaic Appeal and honoured the generous donor with Lifetime Membership of the "Friends of Fishbourne Roman Palace"



Emperor or Lifetime Friend, Ron Hitchings is a long-standing member of The Sussex Archaeological Society owners of Fishbourne Roman Palace. Giving the donation in memory of a close friend, Joseph Brooks, he was thrilled to learn that the Research Room in the new Collections Discovery Centre will be named The Joseph Brooks Research Room.
David Rudkin Director at the Palace said, "We are absolutely delighted to receive this extremely generous donation. We decided the most personal way we could thank Ron, was to make him our very first Emperor Friend."

Ron said, "I am completely overwhelmed and very proud to be able to help the Palace achieve its exciting plans for the future and honoured to be the first Emperor Friend. I would urge as many people as possible to become Friends and in so doing give the appeal a real boost".

Fishbourne Roman Palace honoured with two prestigious awards

The education team at Fishbourne Roman Palace has won two prestigious awards: The Heritage Education Trust Sandford Award for Excellence in Museum Education and the Watford Grammar School for Boys Classics Department Award for "Best School Visit Site 2004".

Suzanne Evans, who leads the education team at Fishbourne said, "It is a real thrill for us all to be recognised for our work not only by our professional colleagues but also by our clients, the pupils themselves."

The Sandford Award, instigated in 1975, was first awarded to Fishbourne Roman Palace in 1999. It is held for a period of five years as a sign of quality and excellence in education provision at a heritage site. After five years all holders are re-assessed by a panel of independent judges drawn from the profession.

Following an assessment visit during 2004 the judges said, "The education service that it offers is established, but not complacent, constantly seeking to innovate and improve. It is comprehensive and very efficient, but still has a very personal feel to it. In a number of respects it is a beacon of good practice."

Watford Grammar School for Boys Classics Department has visited Fishbourne Roman Palace for the last few years during which time they have developed an excellent relationship with the whole education team. Last year they were so enthusiastic about their visit they rated it as the "Best School Visit Site for 2004"

Dates for the diary

Wednesday 18th May	**"Ground Breaking" ceremony and reception to mark the beginning of the development.** *RSVP by Friday 13th May to 01243 785859 or projectfish@sussexpast.co.uk*
Sundays in May	Behind the Scenes at the Palace - To celebrate Museums and Galleries Month
Sunday 29th May	Fontwell Park Race day - A race day with a Roman Theme Tickets £10 booked in advance through Fishbourne Roman Palace Under 16s go FREE. Visit www.sussexpast.co.uk/fishbourne or call 01243 785859
Friday 3rd June	11am – 1pm Exclusive Friends "Behind the Scenes"
Sunday 3rd July	11am – 1pm Exclusive Friends " Behind the Scenes"
Monday 1st August	11am – 1pm Exclusive Friends "Behind the Scenes"
Thursday 1st September	11am – 1pm Exclusive Friends "Behind the Scenes"
Saturday 1st October	11am – 1pm Exclusive Friends "Behind the Scenes"
24th – 28th October	Roman Army Week - Be a legionary for the day

Buy A Brick Campaign

Since launching "Buy A Brick" we have "sold" more than 1,100 bricks towards the new Collections Discovery Centre, but we still have plenty more available. For a donation of just £5.00 a brick will be allocated in your name, you can buy one brick, several bricks or a whole wall! You will be sent a special 'Buy a Brick' Certificate recognising your donation and support for our appeal. Bricks make a great memento of a visit or a unique gift for any occasion. Bricks are available from www.sussexpastshop.co.uk or by calling 01243 785859.

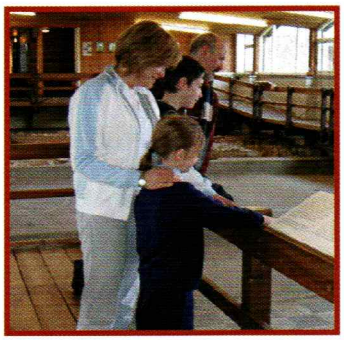
Fishbourne Roman Palace Opening Times:

Daily 10am – 5pm. August 6pm

Fishbourne Roman Palace,
Salthill Road,
Fishbourne, Chichester,
West Sussex, PO19 3QR

Tel: 01243 785859
Email: projectfish@sussexpast.co.uk
Website: sussexpast.co.uk/fishbourne

Friends of Fishbourne Roman Palace



Tell your friends all about the benefits you enjoy as a Friend of Fishbourne Roman Palace and they may want to be a Friend of ours too?

- Free entry to the Palace, Museum and Roman Garden during normal opening hours, including during Roman Army Week and Family Fun Days
- 50% discount on admission to Sussex Archaeological Society's five other properties: Lewes Castle and Barbican House Museum, Anne of Cleves House (Lewes), Michelham Priory (Nr. Hailsham), The Priest House (West Hoathly) and Marlipins Museum (Shoreham–by-Sea). Visit www.sussexpast for details and opening times
- A Welcome Pack including guidebook and invitation to an exclusive "Behind the Scenes" visit
- A Friends Newsletter twice a year
- Invitations to Exclusive Friends events
- Priority booking and 10% discount on ticketed events at the Palace

Application forms available at the Palace, online at www.sussexpast.co.uk/fishbourne click on Friends of Fishbourne Roman Palace or by calling 01243 785859

The Friends of Fishbourne Roman Palace is a subsidiary of The Sussex Archaeological Society.
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